

# Dreamcatchers

Focusing on Life Skills & Traditional Ways



*“When I grew up... I missed out on my culture. I am very pleased to see what has become of Chilkooot Indian Association’s and Haines Borough Public Library’s partnering and doing these projects and providing these opportunities. Not only carving and drawing designs but also technology. It’s truly amazing what you are doing. Keep it up.”*

~S. Paddock—Tlingit Elder

## A growing partnership

**Dreamcatchers** was a two year project that helped participants improve their life status through educational and artistic skill development. We took a holistic approach by incorporating heritage and life skills while also celebrating the cultural wealth of our valley. The project culminated with youth carving a totem pole that tells the story of the library using traditional symbols and contemporary design. The pole raising ceremony was a community event that honored the



ing community, and the library for its role in education. The totem pole embodies our cultural identities and also symbolizes the power of partner-

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## Project Goals

**Goal 1:** Empower community members to improve their life status through educational and artistic skill development.

**Goal 2:** Increase the understanding of Native history, culture, and traditional life style and support learning in culturally appropriate ways.

**Goal 3:** Increase the number of high quality partnerships between the tribe and other organizations.

*“We are proud of our eight year partnership with the library which brings cultural activities and projects to our community. It successfully addresses our tribal strategic plan and shares our cultural identity with others.”*

~Greg Stuckey, Tribal Administrator

## Dreamcatchers:

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### Haines Borough Public Library

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### E-mail contacts:

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[haineslibrary.org](http://haineslibrary.org)

# Diverse programs ... with exciting results ...

**Youth and Kids (YaKs) Programs** focused on literacy, learning and fun. Activities were created for youth of all ages — newborns to teens.



Winter Survival Skills

- ◆ Mother Goose Lapsit
- ◆ Preschool Storytime
- ◆ After-School Activities
- ◆ Homework Help
- ◆ Teen Nights
- ◆ Teen Advisory Board
- ◆ Summer Reading Program
- ◆ Writers' Workshop

*"I gained better writing and editing skills and learned more about my particular writing style."*

## Intergenerational Programs



acknowledged the importance of communication between adults and youth. Opportunities were provided for one-on-one mentoring and group interactions.

- ◆ Dragonfly Project Mentoring
- ◆ Computer Help on Demand
- ◆ Senior Citizen/ Youth Gardening



**Cultural Programming** was aimed at sharing traditional knowledge, skills, and language while building a greater understanding of Tlingit culture community wide. Projects included:

- ◆ Tlingit Language Classes
- ◆ Felt Beading
- ◆ Storytelling Workshop
- ◆ Gallery Night: A Native American Art Showcase
- ◆ Northwest Coast Design Workshop
- ◆ Totem Pole Carving



## On-the-Job Training

Another important aspect of the **Dreamcatchers** project was to provide work experience. In addition to the paid internships for carvers, two Native library pages were hired to work at the library for five hours per week during the school year and half-time during the summer.

*"This project has helped me communicate better with people. I never knew I was a good speaker, until a few close friends, and even family pointed it out. I have the library to thank for that."*

~ S. Wilson, Library Page

**Life Skills Programming** for adults encompassed topics ranging from résumé writing to outdoor survival skills to designing Native art pieces. Program topics came from requests or were developed in response to community interests.

- ◆ Avalanche Awareness
- ◆ Parenting Skills
- ◆ Edible Berries

*"This [edible berries class] will help me with my job because I teach food classes for kids."*

- ◆ Loans 101
- ◆ Heart and Bone Health
- ◆ Living with Bears in Southeast Alaska

*"This presentation was fascinating and it increased my general knowledge of bears and their behavior."*

- ◆ Adobe Illustrator
- ◆ Photoshop & Digital Imaging
- ◆ Publishing with A Local Author

*"After living in Haines for almost 40 years I learned some very enlightening stories and history about Haines people and places new to me."*

- ◆ Mental Health & Mentalization
- ◆ Collecting Beach Edibles
- ◆ Food Preservation